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## **GLENDALÉ CITY COUNCIL REAPPOINTED PRESIDING JUDGE AND APPOINTED CITY JUDGE TO FILL EMPTY SEAT**

**Glendale, Ariz.** — The Glendale City Council reappointed Presiding Judge Elizabeth Finn for an additional two-year term as Presiding Judge and appointed Judge Manuel Delgado, Jr. to a two-year term to fill the vacancy created when City Judge Jean Baxter retired.

Judge Elizabeth Finn has served as Glendale's Presiding City Judge since 2003. The Judicial Selection Advisory Board (JSAB) unanimously recommended Judge Finn's reappointment based on the results of her reappointment interview, letters of recommendation received on her behalf, confidential survey results conducted by a private research firm and other reappointment materials. Judge Finn, the most senior judge on the bench in Arizona, has many accomplishments during her tenure with Glendale including the development of Mental Health Court, Domestic Violence Treatment Court and Homeless Court, along with securing \$1.5 million in domestic violence grant funding. She has also served as faculty for many training events and conferences sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Center for Court Innovation, Family Violence Prevention Fund, Supreme Courts of Arizona and Colorado, State Bar of Arizona, the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, Arizona Municipal Judges Association, Arizona Justice of Peace Associations and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Judge Delgado, Jr. previously served just under six years with the Glendale City Court as a Court Traffic Hearing Officer where he performed civil traffic arraignments, civil traffic hearings and issued Orders of Protection. He left in 2012 to instruct criminal justice at Peoria High School. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business from Arizona State University and graduated from the Arizona State University School of Law. Judge Delgado, Jr. has also served as a public defender for the cities of Glendale and Surprise and formerly practiced privately in criminal law and domestic relations.

Judge Baxter recently retired after serving 24 years as a City Judge. The Glendale JSAB, in conjunction with city staff, conducted a recruitment process to solicit interested candidates for the City Judge vacancy. All applicants were required to submit an extensive judicial application outlining their experience and qualifications for the position.

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## GLENDALE JUDGES

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The JSAB reviews investigative materials, survey results and other background information to assess qualifications of candidates for appointment and reappointment to the positions of Glendale Presiding Judge and City Judge and makes recommendations of the most qualified candidates to the City Council. The seven member board is composed of the Presiding Judge of Maricopa County Superior Court or a designee, an Appellate Court Judge appointed by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, a Maricopa County Bar Association member who resides in Glendale, a State Bar Association member who resides in Glendale and three public members who are residents of Glendale and appointed by the City Council.

In determining the best qualified applicants, the Board is tasked with selecting applicants who have outstanding professional competence and reputation and who reflect, to the extent possible, the ethnic, racial and gender diversity of the community in order to enhance fairness and public confidence in judicial proceedings.

For the vacant judge position, the JSAB received a total of 48 applications and selected the top eight candidates for interviews. Prior to those interviews, an extensive due diligence review was conducted by the JSAB that included contacting individuals and institutions to obtain as much relevant background information as possible. Following the interviews, the JSAB identified four finalists to present to the Council for consideration. Informational packets including pertinent information on each finalist such as applications, resumes, reference letters, State Bar of Arizona member status and disciplinary history and videotaped interviews were provided to Council for review. In accordance with JSAB by-laws, the board must recommend at least three finalists for consideration by the Council.

After reviewing the materials provided by the JSAB, the City Council reappointed Elizabeth Finn as Presiding Judge and appointed Manual Delgado, Jr. as City Judge at the City Council meeting held Feb. 26.

For more information about the Glendale City Court, visit [www.glendaleaz.com/court](http://www.glendaleaz.com/court).

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